

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
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FM USMISSION USNATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0541
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 03508

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, NA, TU, PO, GR
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SALE OF DUTCH F-104'S TO GREECE
AND TURKEY.

1. DUTCH DEFENSE ADVISOR (WYNAENDTS) TOLD MISSION OFFICER
ON 5 APRIL THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO INFORM US OF
THE HAGUE'S CURRENT THINKING ON PHASING OUT OF ITS
F-104 AIRCRAFT AND POSSIBLE SALES TO GREECE AND TURKEY.

2. WYNAENDTS SAID THAT ABOUT 80 F-104'S (INCLUDING
14 TRAINERS) WOULD BECOME AVAILABLE DURING 1980-84.
ONLY 18 OF THESE, HE THOUGHT, HAD BEEN ACQUIRED WITH
LEGAL OBLIGATION TO CONSULT THE US ON DISPOSAL. BOTH
GREECE AND TURKEY HAD INDICATED INTEREST IN PURCHASING
THE F-104'S, AND HE HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED TO INFORM THOSE
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DELEGATIONS OF PLANNED AVAILABILITY OF THE AIRCRAFT AT
ABOUT \$1 MILLION DUTCH GUILDERS EACH (\$467,000).
EVENTUAL PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE HAD BEEN ESTIMATED AT
\$70 MILLION DUTCH GUILDERS TO BE APPLIED AGAINST THE
F-16 PURCHASE.

3. WE AGREED TO GET WASHINGTON'S VIEWS ON DISPOSITION

OF THE AIRCRAFT REQUIRING US APPROVAL, NOTING THAT THE US CONGRESSIONAL RESTRICTIONS ON AID TO TURKEY COULD BE A FACTOR. WE ASKED, IN VIEW OF THE ALLIANCE'S CONSENSUS ON PROVIDING HELP TO TURKEY AND PORTUGAL AND THE RATHER POOR TRACK RECORD OF THE NETHERLANDS, WHETHER THE HAGUE HAD GIVEN ANY THOUGHT TO CONCESSIONAL SALES OR AID TO THOSE COUNTRIES. WYNAENDTS SAID THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE OF HOW THE GON INTENDED TO DIVIDE THE AIRCRAFT BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY, WHETHER ANY THOUGHT HAD BEEN GIVEN TO CONCESSIONARY TERMS TO TURKEY, OR IF PORTUGAL HAD BEEN CONSIDERED AT ALL. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO RELAY US VIEWS ON THE GENERAL QUESTION TO HIS AUTHORITIES.

4. COMMENT: SUBJECT TO EMBASSY THE HAGUE'S VIEWS, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD PRESS THE DUTCH TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF CONCESSIONARY SALE TO TURKEY. WE ASSUME WASHINGTON WOULD ALSO WANT TO CONSIDER WHETHER THE US-TIED AIRCRAFT COULD BE PROVIDED TO TURKEY OR PORTUGAL AT RESIDUAL VALUE OR UNDER GRANT AID. END COMMENT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE.
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